

RAINGARDENS

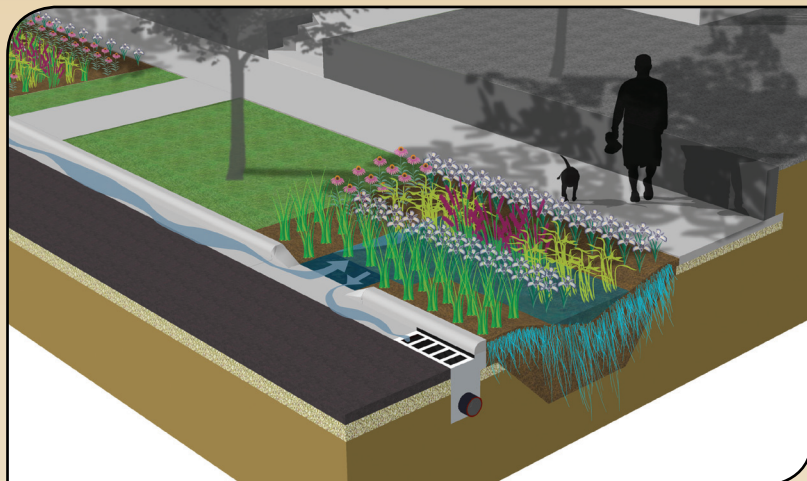
HELP COLLECT AND FILTER POLLUTED RUNOFF



What is a Raingarden?

Raingardens collect and filter runoff from hard surfaces such as city streets and sidewalks before it enters the underground storm drain system. Storm drains do not clean the water, but instead transport it (and the pollution it carries) quickly to nearby lakes and streams. Raingardens remove up to 90% of the pollution found in stormwater runoff by allowing rainwater to soak into the ground.

Raingardens can be planted with shrubs or perennial flowers and grasses. Minnesota native plants are recommended for raingardens because they are more tolerant of local climate conditions and therefore require less maintenance. This saves residents time and money. It also creates habitat for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.



Common Questions About Raingardens

Does a raingarden form a pond?

No, rainwater should soak into the ground within 48 hours if the garden has been designed properly.

Are raingardens a breeding ground for mosquitoes?

No, mosquitoes need 7-12 days to lay and hatch new eggs.

Do raingardens require a lot of maintenance?

Watering and weeding are important during the first year as plants become established. Maintenance lessens in year two and beyond with occasional weeding, similar to other gardens.

How much does a raingarden cost?

It depends on the size of the raingarden. The RCWD offers grants to provide landowners with technical and financial assistance.



RAINGARDEN MAINTENANCE

Watering

- After planting, water every day for one week unless it rains that day.
- During the first growing season, water weekly with 1-2 inches of water including rain.
- After year one, no watering is needed.

Weeding

- Consider planting only 3-5 types of plants to make weed identification easier.
- Leave the plant tags or a stake next to each plant to help you identify plants from weeds in the future.
- Do not use landscape fabric underneath the mulch because it will prevent the raingarden from working properly.

Pruning and replanting

- Stalks can be left over winter to attract birds or you can prune them in the fall when the plants have gone dormant.
- Pruning can also be done in spring after the plants have started to green up.
- Planting can be done at any time, but spring and fall are recommended.
- Dividing plants that have become too large should be done in fall.

Mulching

- Maintain a three inch layer of mulch to limit weed growth and reduce the need for watering.

Other maintenance/tips

- Regularly clear the inlet and basin of accumulated leaves, dirt, and trash.
- Except for your time spent doing regular maintenance, avoid walking in the raingarden to prevent soil compaction.



**For more information,
please contact your
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www.bluthumb.org.**

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